

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P 200955Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY 2119

S E C R E T MANAMA 0574

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS : EAID,MARR,BA

SUBJECT : BAHRAIN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

REFERENCE : STATE 115879

1. AFTER CLEARING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO WILL BE IN IRAQ WITH CROWN PRINCE FOR REST OF THIS WEEK, I APPROACHED DEVELOPMENT MINISTER SHIRAWI MAY 19 TO "FORMALLY OPEN" TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NEGOTIATIONS. DRAWING ON REFTEL, I LAID OUT WITH COMPLETE CANDOR TIMING PROBLEM WE ARE FACING VIS-A-VIS MIDDLE EAST FORCE NEGOTIATIONS AND USE OF FY 75 FUNDS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. I STRESSED THAT, WHILE I HAD TO ADMIT TO HAVING TRIED ON PERSONAL BASIS TO "PRESSURE" GOB TO CONCLUDE MIDDLE EAST FORCE NEGOTIATIONS, GOB MUST CLEARLY UNDERSTAND USG IS NOT TRYING TO PRESSURE GOB IN THIS REGARD. USG ACCEPTS IN GOOD FAITH FOREIGN MINISTER'S ASSURANCES RE GOB'S GOOD INTENTIONS TOWARD RETAINING MIDDLE EAST FORCE. USG RECOGNIZES GOB FEELS IT HAS A PARLIAMENTARY PROBLEM. WHILE WE MAY NOT AGREE WITH TACTIC OF DELAYING CONCLUSION NEGOTIATIONS TO DEAL WITH PARLIAMENTARY PROBLEM, WE RESPECT GOB'S JUDGEMENT ON HOW TO DEAL WITH ITS OWN PARLIAMENT. ON OTHER HAND, WE HAVE A CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEM WITH RESPECT TO USE OF FY 75 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUNDS HERE IN ABSENCE FORMAL CONCLUSION MIDDLE EAST FORCE NEGOTIATIONS. WE ARE PREPARED TO COMMENCE NEGOTIATING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT BUT GOB MUST UNDERSTAND JUNE 13 IS OR DEADLINE FOR INFORMING CONGRESS IF WE ARE TO USE FY 75 FUNDS AND, HENCE,

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BE ABLE TO PLACE ADVISORS HERE THIS CALENDAR YEAR. WE HAVE

CONCLUDED IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO APPROACH CONGRESS ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR BAHRAIN IN ABSENCE SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION MIDDLE EAST FORCE NEGOTIATIONS. GOB MAY NOT AGREE WITH THIS ASSESSMENT BUT WE ARE CONFIDENT GOB WILL RESPECT OUR JUDGEMENT ON HOW TO DEAL WITH U.S. CONGRESS IN SAME MANNER IN WHICH WE RESPECT GOB'S JUDGEMENT IN DEALING WITH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

2. I FURTHER STRESSED THAT, WHILE I WAS PREPARED TO PROCEED WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DISCUSSIONS, GOBHMUST UNDERSTAND THAT IF WE FAILED TO MEET FY 75 DEADLINE BECAUSE OF PROBLEM NOTED ABOVE, WE AND GOB MIGHT JUST HAVE TO WAIT FOR A YEAR UNTIL U.S. TECHNICAL ADVISORS ARRIVE.

3. SHIRAWI SAID HE UNDERSTOOD COMPLETELY AND WOULD PROCEED WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DISCUSSIONS ON THAT BASIS. LAUGHINGLY HE SAID "THIS INDEED IS NOT PRESSURE; IT IS BLACK-MAIL". HE THEN PROCEEDED TO ASSURE ME OF HIS PERSONAL CONVICTION THAT GOB WOULD MAKE EARLY DECISION ON MIDDLE EAST FORCE NEGOTIATIONS, POSSIBLY BY END OF MAY AFTER PRIME MINISTER'S RETURN FROM VISIT TO IRAN (HE DEPARTS MAY 24) AND, IN ANY EVENT, NOT LATER THAN "MID-JUNE". I REITERATED IMPORTANCE OF MEETING JUNE 13 DEADLINE.

4. I LEFT COPY OF DRAFT AGREEMENT WITH SHIRAWI WHO PROMISED TO STUDY IT QUICKLY. ON BASIS PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION, HE APPEARED TO HAVE NO MAJOR PROBLEM WITH IT. I ALSO REVIEWED WITH HIM LIST OF ADVISORS GOB HAS REQUESTED AND LEFT WITH IMPRESSION GOB REQUEST IS HOLDING FIRM BOTH WITH RESPECT TO TYPES OF ADVISORS DESIRED AND PRIORITIES.  
TWINAM

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## Message Attributes

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